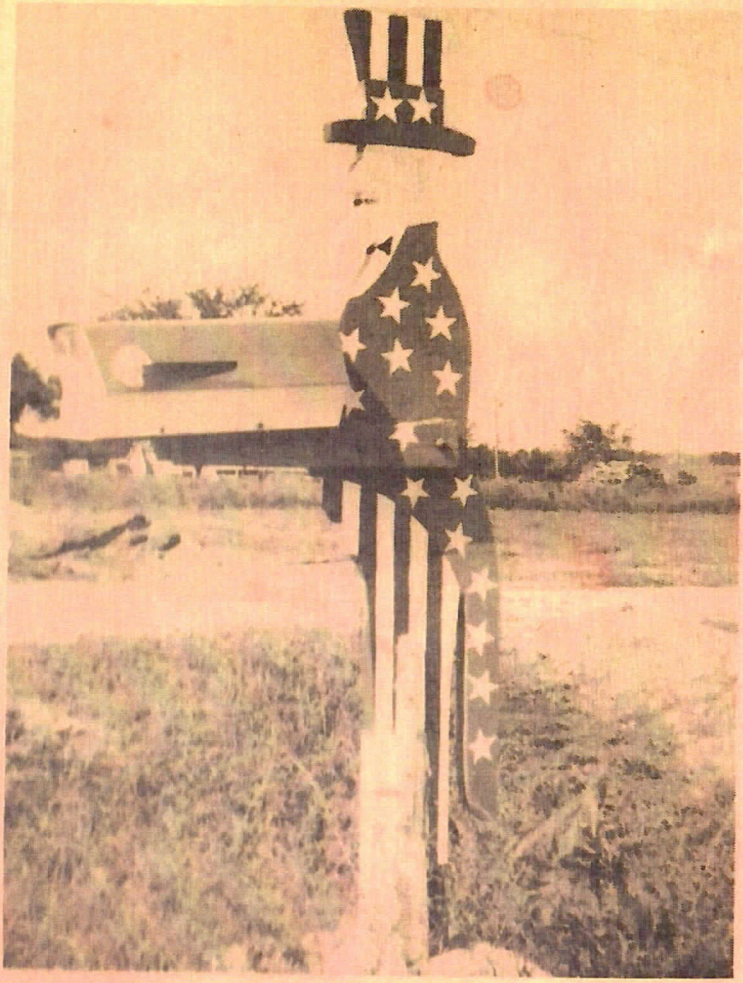
IN THE BEGINNING



Published Quarterly By
Woodson County Historical Society
Yates Center, Kansas
Vol. 12 - No. 46

Cover picture is Uncle Sam holding mail box at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Herdman at east edge of Yates Center. His father Thomas Herdman made this Uncle Sam from a pattern sent here by a relative from Pennsylvania around 57 years ago. It first stood at the Thomas Herdman home a couple of miles north of Piqua.

IN THE BEGINNING

Vol. 12 - No. 46 April, 1979

Lester A. Harding, Editor

EDITOR'S NOTES –

The pictures of the Batesville depot and stockyards in the January issue caused quite some comment from our readers. Some who recalled different happenings in the depot and some were in the picture at the stockyards.

Several readers recalled a Mrs. Noble who was depot agent at Batesville for some time.

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Recently we noticed a death notice in the Iola paper of Mrs. Sater from Neosho Falls. While Mrs. G.H. Sater was not a member of the Woodson County Historical Society she was the first person to tell the editor that she wanted to subscribe to "In The Beginning".

Mrs. Sater and her husband had moved to Neosho Falls from Kansas City where he had retired from the railroad and wanted to get out of the big city.

Mrs. Sater was the first subscriber to this quarterly and has taken it ever since. Over this period of years we had stopped at the Sater home several times and visited with them. The last time we stopped there was over a year ago. Mrs. Sater had been very sick at that time, but came to the door and spoke to us.

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In the ten years or so since we started this quarterly we have met a great number of people. We have corresponded with quite a good many more that live in different parts of the United States.

While we have spent a great deal of time and effort in getting out the forty some issues it has been interesting and educational in many ways. We are trying to get a few issues ahead so they might be published at some future time.

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We may still mark with a red cross those that have forgot to send in their subscription.

IN THE BEGINNING
Published Quarterly By
Woodson County Historical Society
Yates Center, Kansas

$3.00 per year 75 cents per copy

WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Organized March, 1965

The January, 1979 meeting of the Woodson County Historical Society was cancelled because of the snow and ice that covered roads, streets, and sidewalks. This was to be the annual meeting and the election of officers.

The meeting was postponed until the March meeting. The nominating committee had their report made, but will hold it until the March meeting.

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The membership of the Historical Society was a total of 258, with 136 regular members and 122 Life Members. We are hoping for at least that many for 1979.

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IN MEMORIAN

Marie Yohon **80** **Dec. 8, 1978**

Mrs. Yohon lived almost her entire life in the Owl Creek vicinity east of Yates Center. She had held a Life Membership in the Woodson Co. Historical Society from its beginning.

* * * * * *

Carl J. Heffron **70** **Jan. 7, 1979**

Mr. Heffron became a member of the Woodson County Historical several years ago when he and his wife Henrietta moved back to Yates Center from Wichita. Most of his boyhood was spent in the Vernon vicinity.

* * * * *

The new officers for the Woodson County Historical Society as reported by the Nominating Committee were as follows: President, Lester A. Harding; Vice President, M.E. Culbertson; Secretary, Mrs. Esther Lewis; Treasurer, Elmer F. Krueger. Directors re-elected for six year terms were: Jeanette Beine and Christina Kramer.

* * * * *

The Nominating Committee were: Chairperson, W. Kenneth Stockebrand, Mrs. Helene Schnell and Mrs. Ora Swope.

Join and Support the
Woodson County Historical Society

Life Membership $25.00 Regular Membership $2.00

THE WILLIAM STOCKEBRAND FAMILY —

One of the first settlers to come to Woodson County especially in the central part of the county was William Stockebrand. He with his brother Ernest, a brother-in-law August Toedman, and August Lauber who later became his brother-in-law, came to Woodson County in 1857.

Wm Stockebrand was born in Lippe-Detmold, Germany, in August, 1833. The four men came to America they spent two years in Illinois where they had relatives. Coming to Woodson County the four young men came up Owl Creek where three of them took claims in section 1, Twp. 25, R. 15, around a mile from where the town of Yates Center was platted as a townsite, about 18 years later.

Here Wm. Stockebrand built a log cabin in the Northwest quarter of section 1. In December, of the same year that they arrived here, Wm. purchased a pony from an Indian Chief. Just where this tribe was camped at the time we never learned, but presumed it near the Stockebrand cabin.

The pony was evidently a favorite of the chief's wife or squaw and she demanded the pony back. The Chief sent word to Stockebrand who returned the pony and in turn received the cash back that he had paid for the pony. Evidently some renegade Indian saw the money transfer.

When Stockebrand was returning home following a path, we have reason to believe that was somewhere in the blackjack oaks just north of the present Yates Center, a short distance from the Stockebrand cabin, he came upon an old hat lying in the path. For some reason he suspected a trap and went on past the hat without stopping. His intuition was right for an Indian stepped out in the path and shot. The bullet entered Stockebrands left arm near the wrist. Stockebrand escaped, but the wound bled so much he gave out before reaching his cabin. He was found by his brother Earnest who was looking for him.

He did not venture far for several days, but the wound needed medical attention so Stockebrand made his way across the prairie about six or seven miles to the southwest to the little log cabin settlement of Belmont. Here he had his wound dressed by two pioneer doctors who were brothers, Doctor's John and L. Dunn. However, Stockebrand's left hand was crippled for the rest of his life.

On December 5, 1861, W. Stockebrand rode his horse to Neosho Falls and enlisted in Company F, Ninth Regiment Kansas Volunteer Calvary. His name on the roster was spelled: Stuckebrant. He was 26 years old. His service with the company from Woodson County was mostly against bushwackers in Missouri and Indian Territory. On November 25, 1862, just a year after his enlistment he was discharged because of disability.

In January, 1863, William Stockebrand was married to Minnie Steffen. She was a daughter of Mrs. Louisa (Pribenow) Steffen. They were the parents of seven children. William, Matilda, George, Frank, Lucy, Rudolph and Emma.

* * * * *

The first house that Wm. Stockebrand built was a log cabin in the northwest part of his claim. Probably about the time he was married he built a small fame house more in the center of the quarter section. He had proved up on this tract of land in Sec. 1, Twp. 25, R. 15. As their family grew the need for a larger house grew. A native stone house was planned as the stone could be quarried on the northwest side of the claim.

Just when the work of quarrying started we never learned, but the story was told that when the men were getting out the rock for the house the news came that Abraham Lincoln had been assassinated. This would have been in April, 1865. However, the stone house was not finished until 1871, several years later. The stones had to be quarried, cut and dressed down to a certain size. Most of the stones were cut to be about 12 inches high, 22-24 inches long and around 8 inches deep. The stone house was a two-story, nine room building with a full basement and an attic, being 20 foot to the eves.

Mr. William Stockebrand and wife Minnie

William and Minnie Stockebrand were the parents of seven children, William, Mathilda, George, Frank, Louisa (Lucy), Emma and Rudolph.

William was married to Gusta H. Bayer. They were the parents of three sons, John, Walter and Alfred.

John married Hazel B. Their children, were Jolena, Archie Paul and Patty.

Mathilda married Fred C. (Fritz) Weide. They had a son Clarence, who married Alinda Wolf. They had a daughter Sarah Lucille.

George married Elizabeth Gildersleeve. She had one daughter.

Frank married Rosa Frevert. Their children were Francis and Thelma.

Lucy married William Fuhlhage. They had four children, Elmer, Otis, Esther and Erma. After the death of Mr. Fuhlhage she was married to Mr. Hollister.

Rudolph never married.

Emma married Frank Miller. They had six children, George, Nelson, John, Lenore, Emma and Fern.

* * * * * **

Mr. and Mrs. William Stockebrand were charter members of what was known later as the Zion Evangelical church of Yates Center. The church was organized in 1868.

In the November, 1895 election, William Stockebrand was elected as Representative for Woodson County and served one term.

This picture taken in April, 1942 shows the stone house as it looked for a hundred years. In the picture, the girl on the dark horse was Marilyn Harding. The boy between the horse was Elvin Weide.

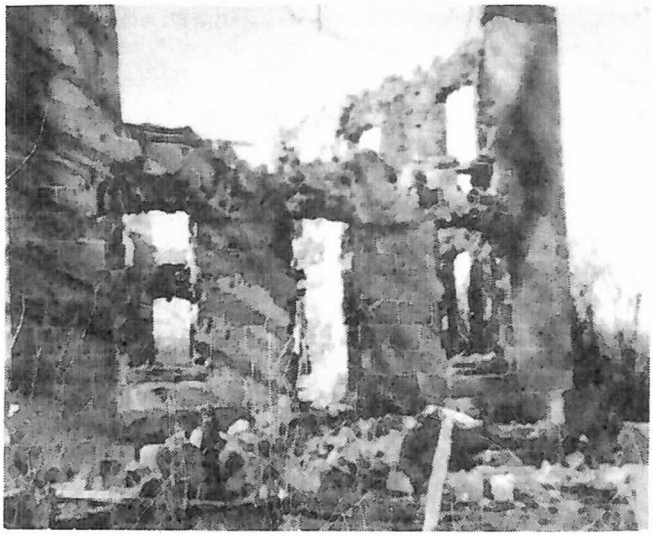
The native stone house we told about was one of three stone houses built in the year of 1871, all with in a mile of each other was perhaps thought by the owners to last indefinitely. The farm on which this particular house was built ceased to belong to the Stockebrands in the settling of the estate as it was sold in 1937 to Mr. and Mrs. Walter Weide.

The first child born in the old house was Lucy Stockebrand who was the fifth child of William and Minnie Stockebrand. That was about 1872, and the last child born in the house was Barbara Weide, January 27, 1941.

The Weide's lived in the stone house for over ten years, moving to Yates Center, in fall of 1947. The farm was sold to Mr. and Mrs. John H. Lauber. The Laubers lived in the old house for several years, before moving to Yates Center.

The old house remained vacant and was destroyed by fire in December, 1878. It had been set afire by vandals and the east side looked as though it had been crumbled by the use of dynamite or some explosive. The floors, window and door casings, the two porches and roof were of wood and so were destroyed. The three sides of the once proud house are still standing intact. Signs of vandalism had been seen at the stone house for some time, but why anyone would want to destroy it would seem rather odd.

No lathe of any kind had been used on the inside walls but had been plastered over the rock. The date had been carved on the key rock over the south door. The age and heat from the fire had obliterated the date.



Picture of stone house taken from same angle after it had been destroyed.

TRAIN WRECK AT VERNON —

The quiet solitude of Vernon's suppertime was rudely shattered Tuesday evening around 5:45, June 8, 1948, when twenty freight cars of the Missouri Pacific railroad were derailed just as they were passing through the town.

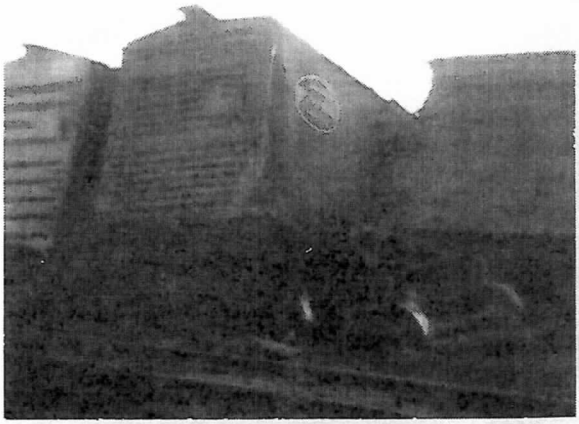
The train being pulled by one of the large diesel engines, was headed north enroute for Kansas City from Hoisington. Because of a wreck on another line of the railroad trains were being re-routed through Vernon via Durand.

The twenty cars piled up in an area about two blocks long scattering the cars and their trucks along the right-of-way. Several were jerked around in the opposite direction and were packed in so that they resembled an accordian. One car barely missed the Vernon station as it overturned.

The engine with a few cars went on north of the station tearing up track there. The engine did not overturn. Part of the cars were loaded. They were reported to contain lumber, fertilizer, acid, wool and empty bottles.

The track was twisted and broken for several rods. Wheels were left strung along the area where the cars left the track. One wheel rolled into the yard of a house quite a distance away on the west side of the tracks north of the depot.

Luckily no one was injured. It was thought that a hot boxing on one of the wheels was the cause of the wreck.



Where cars and wheels separated at Vernon.

THE FIRST GOVERNMENT SURVEY OF WOODSON COUNTY —

What we believe to be the first survey of Woodson County started on the Fifth Standard Parallel South commencing on the west side which would now be a mile and three-quarter north and a quarter west of the Main street of Toronto following 105 north out of town. The first survey for Kansas started in November, 1854, on the base line that was the common border of Kansas and Nebraska, going south on the Sixth Principal Meridian that goes just to the west of Wichita.

The surveyor was Blair H. Mathews and the first date was January 31, 1856. They were perhaps the first white men to cross the width of Woodson County. While no doubt there were hunters, trappers or traders here at that time, but the first settlers to stay did not come until the spring of 1856.

Coming south on the base line the surveyors marked off in townships, six miles square.

The first survey marker in this county was for the corner of sections 34 and 35. Section 34 was in Greenwood and 35 in Woodson, both being on the north side of the Parallel Line. Here the men set a limestone 29 inches by 12 by 3 for the corner stone. It was "tied" down by a Post Oak 16 inches in diameter, bear north 77-1/2 degree, and east 67 links. Another Post Oak S. 43-1/2 degree E. 65 links another Post Oak 16 inches in diameter, N. 54-1/2 degree, west 59 links. Another Post Oak, 23 inches in diameter, N. 53-1/2 degree, W. 185 links. Land rolling, soil 2nd rate. Timber Post Oak, Bur Oak, and Walnut. Undergrowth same, Red Bud and Papaw.

East on True line along south border of section 35. Leave timber, bear NE & SW. and enter prairie containing a few scattered trees. Leave prairie and enter timber, bluff containing sandstone ledges. Branch 20 links wide, course S. right branch of creek 40 links wide, course S.W. left bank of same a hickory 12 inches in diameter. Set limestone 20 by 16 by 2 for 1/2 section corner. Leave prairie and enter timber. Left bank of creek last described, 130 links wide, course N. (this was Cedar Creek). After crossing this creek three times another limestone was set for corner to section 35 and 36, Twp. 25, R. 13. Again the limestone marker was "tied down" to two Post Oaks, one 10 inches and other 12 inches in diameter. No other tree convenient to mark. Land broken, soil 2nd rate. Undergrowth Hazel and Redbud. Another 80 rods the surveyors set another limestone at the southeast corner of section 36 for corner Twp. 25, and Ranges 13 & 14. Land high and rolling, Soil 1st rate. This completed two miles of survey, and was the days work. Jan. 31, 1856.

Going on east along the Parallel Line to where the town of Belmont once stood, that is four miles south and two miles west of the present Yates Center, the surveyors placed a sandstone 20"x11'x3" at the corner of Sections 32 and 33. "Land broken-Soil 3rd rate, timber Black Oak, Post Oak and Blackjack-poor quality, and about here is the dividing ridge between the Verdigris and Neosho Rivers.

Going on six miles east at the corner of Sections 32 and 33, evidently no rocks were handy to set in ground so-"Set an elm post in a mound and deposited a charred stake as per instructions. Land level, Soil 3rd rate, and timber Hackberry, Burr Oak and Walnut, poor quality. On the next mile corner a Mulberry post set in a mound and a charred stake was deposited with it." (The burnt or charred stakes were used very much by surveyors in some instances as they were believed to last for many years.)

Going on two miles east to the corner of sections 35 and 36, the surveyor mentions the creek being 40 links wide on the left bank in the bend. The course of creek is nearly east, then southeast, then north. (This is the south branch of Owl Creek, just east of the L.C. Chambers and Eldon Kee farms.) On this corner a Black Walnut post set in a mound and deposited charred stake. Land gently rolling and soil 2nd rate.

(In the last mile going east on this line, there is a long steep hill) - Surveyor notes- Limestone on surface. Top of ridge bears north and south. Foot the same. Limestone in ledges. Leave timber bearing north and south. Right bank of Owl Creek 100 links wide, course south. Left bank the same. Set a boundary 18x12x4 for corner of sections 34-35, Twp. 25, R. 17, from which a Hickory 16 inches in diameter bears North 47-1/2 degree, east 21 links. Land-west half rolling, east half level. Timber Hickory, Elm, Sycamore Soil 2nd rate.

End of the fifth Standard Parallel, March 1856.

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Coming back west four miles the surveyors started north on the Range 17 East. During April and May, 1856, Blair H. Mathews was the head surveyor in running the Range and Township lines of Woodson County.

The section lines were run sometime in 1859 by Simeon Calhoun. The southern two tiers of sections of Woodson County were the north boundary of the Osage Indian Trust Lands and were not officially surveyed until 1869.

THE SOLOMON REEP FAMILY —

Roots of this family go back to the days and years before the Revolutionary War. The grandfather of Solomon, Isaac Reep, Sr. carried supplies to the Militia Company in which his father served during the Revolutionary War. Isaac Reep was the father of five children. They lived first in eastern Pennsylvania to Butler County, Pennsylvania in 1801. Henry Reep was a son of Isaac and the line in which we will follow.

Henry Reep was married to Fanny Otterman. On May 15, 1866, Fanny applied for War of 1812 Widows Pension. The application was rejected because Henry's name was not spelled correctly on the original Muster Rolls.

Henry and Fannie Reep were the parents of Solomon Reep who was born March 3, 1829 at Fairview, Butler Co., Pennsylvania. On February 14, 1850, at Fairview, Solomon was married to Anna Marie (Mary) Rumbaugh, who was born in Sugar Creek Township, Armstrong County, Penn. May 7, 1828. Her parents were Leonard and Maria Rumbaugh.

In 1856, the Solomon Reep and Leonard Rumbaugh families moved to Chickasaw County, Iowa. The children of Solomon Reep born in Pennsylvania were, Rev. Leonard, married Margaret E. Dietel; Homer Reep, married Madelina (Lena) Weick; William H., married Ella Sherwood; The Children born in Iowa were: Franklin B. married Sarah Myers; Lavina died young; Florreta married August Blankenhagen; Julia A. married Samuel Geith, Lewis married Emma C. Weick, Solomon married 2nd, Minnie Withers.

Rev. Solomon Reep conducted Bible classes in his home in North Washington and in Alta Vista, Chickasaw County, Iowa. He was one of the founders of the Alta Vista Evangelical Church. In 1871, he received a license to preach from the Iowa Conference of the Evangelical Association.

Rev. Solomon's son Homer, made a trip to Yates Center, Woodson County, Kansas. He was so impressed by the fine peach crop in Woodson County that he persuaded the family to move to Yates Center in 1893. Other members of the family followed his move from Iowa to Yates Center in 1895. It has been said that the family never saw another peach crop to equal the one that influenced the family to move to Kansas.

For the present we will just tell some about two of the sons of Solomon Reep, Homer and Louis.

* * * * * *

Homer Reep was married to Madalina (Lena) Weick, at Waterloo, Iowa. They were the parents of seven children, all who were born at Alta Vista Iowa. The children were, William H., Otto, Emma, Sidney A., Dorothy, Clara, Rev. George D.

William H. was married to martha Fulhage, Dec. 2, 1912. Their children were, Lloyd and Ethel.

Otto married Mathilda (Mary) Weide. Their children were Harvey, Elma (Greer) and John E.

Emma Reep married Charles Weide. Their children were Fern (Sundquist) and Dorothy (Kleppe).

Sidney A. married Clara Zinn. Their children were, Howard and Raymond, Helen (Black), Irene (Easum), Lenore (Schmidt). Sidney later married Betty Eckhart.

Dorothy married William Seifort.

Clara married Ralph Hickman. They had a daughter Doris.

Rev. George D. married Emma Mae Donaldson. They have a son, Rev. Mark Reep.

* * * * * *

Homer Reep purchased a farm, three miles west and four miles north of Yates Center. This was the southeast quarter of section 20, Twp., Range 15. The family came here in July, 1893. Here the family grew up and mostly married local people. And most of them at some time belonged and attended the Turkey Creek Evangelical Church.

* * * * * *

Louis Reep was born Sept. 2, 1869, in Iowa. On Sept. 23, 1893, Louis was married to Emma Carolina Weick, evidently relative to Homer's wife, their children were Elmer, Walt, Floyd, Charles and Ervin.

This Reep family also belonged or attended the Turkey Creek Evangelical Church.

Charles H. and Ervin Reep and their cousin George D. Reep were all ordained ministers of the Kansas Conference of the Evangelical Association, and all three considered the Turkey Creek Church as their Mother Church.

We have found the name Louis Reep also spelled Lewis but it is the same Reep in our story.

* * * * * *

On November 27, 1895, Louis Reep purchased the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 29 and part of section 28, Twp. 23, R. 15, with Duck Creek running through most of it. Louis kept this land until he sold it to Wm. H. Stockebrand in January, 1899. Louis then purchased the southwest quarter of section 35, Twp. 24, R. 14. with Owl Creek running through the north part of it, where he lived for several years.

While Rev. Solomon Reep did not seem to have a regular charge after coming to Woodson County he often filled the pulpit at the Turkey Creek Church. He was one of those outspoken, "hell and brimstone" type of preacher. We would like to tell of a couple of incidents that happened while he was preaching at the Turkey Creek Church. Evidently some of the congregation used chewing tobacca. On one occasion he told the group from the pulpit that if any of them chewed tobacca he wanted them to leave their 'cud' on top of the hitching posts in front of the church.

A family by the name of Fisher lived about two and a half miles west and a half north from the church. They occasionally came to church there. One hot, summer Sunday morning the Fishers came to the services at Turkey Creek. They had a dog that followed the wagon and on this particular Sunday morning followed them to church. As mentioned it was a hot Sunday morning. The windows and the doors were wide open. In the midst of Solomon's sermon the dog hunting some of the Fisher family came in and started up the aisle. Rev. Solomon stopped his talk, looked at the dog and then at its owner and remarked, "Someone take that dog out. Neither dogs nor the devil are welcome in this church." The Fisher family all got up, took their dog, got in the wagon and went home and never returned to this church anymore.

* * * * * *

Rev. Solomon Reep passed away May 7, 1901, and his wife Anna Maria (Mary) died, Jan. 11, 1916. They are both buried in the Turkey Creek Cemetery, at the south of the church.

This is just a part of the Reep Family History that was accumulated by the untiring effort of Reynold Reep, son of Elmer Reep and grandson of Lewis, and great grandson of Solomon Reep. Reynold was the founder of the Reep Family Association, that was formed to Research and preserve the History of the Reep and Allied Families.

Reynolds F. Reep and his wife Hannah live in Honolulu, Hawaii. Their son Captain Gary Reep, wife Marilyn and their small son are stationed in Germany at present.

Incidently, Reynold Reep and son Gary each have a Life Membership in the Woodson County Historical Society.

The second National Reep Family Reunion was held in July, 1978, at Reepsville, near Lincolnton, North Carolina.

THE GOINGS CEMETERY —

What was during the 1860's and '70's, a popular burying place for early settlers and families, has for perhaps the past 75 or 80 years been an unkept cemetery. The fence if any ever surrounded it was torn down, cattle and horse roamed through it knocking down stones, until it became a shambles of broken stones, sunken graves and almost a disgrace to the early pioneers who used it as a final resting place for so many.

The Legend for this cemetery goes back to the early part of the Civil War days. At the time of the settling of Woodson County, a wagon trail known as the LeRoy-Eureka road was laid out across the prairie between these two pioneer towns. Along in the fall of 1862 a caravan of covered wagons was traveling along this road. Some members of the party took sick, delaying a part of the caravan. Several members of the group died. A child died on October 18, 1862. A woman whose name was Sarah Pickering died October 24, 1862. It is believed that this was a mother and her daughter. They were buried along the wagon trail about a half mile south of the Duck Creek crossing on land that was the homestead of Randolph Goings.

Somewhere nearby, possibly from the outcropping of sandstone near what is now US-75 just before where it crosses Turkey Creek, large slabs of native sandstone were quarried and the stones cut and dressed into vaults. The stones were about two inches thick and very smooth. The sides and ends were grooved and fitted together, a large smooth rock for the top was also fitted into grooves. Iron rods were fitted into both ends to bind and hold the vault together. The names were carved into the top cover. There were several of these sandstone vaults, some larger than others.

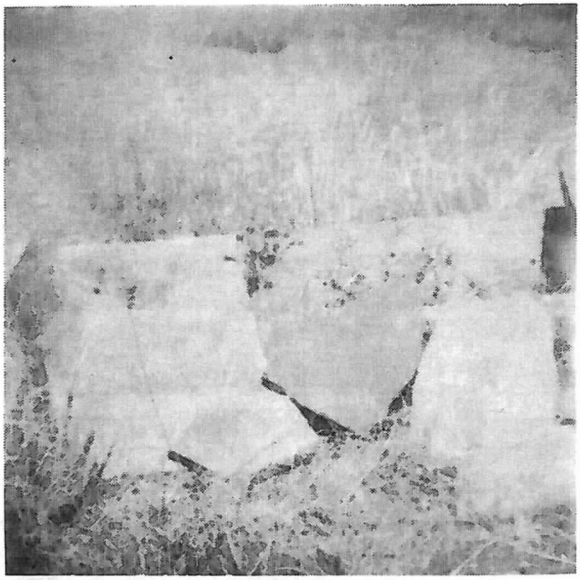
Another death on October 18, 1862 was that of James Lane Wilkins. On another of these vaults was the name Daniel, the first name not legible.

Asa and Lydia Whitney, whose homestead was about a mile to the south of this cemetery, seemed to be the next to use this as a burying place for their children, Morian, Howell and Dora, ranging in age from one month to two years, in 1854 to 1866, for Howell the oldest one.

It was not until 1869 that this was listed as a public burying place when the following notice appeared in the notes of the Woodson County Commissioners: "Randolph Goings and wife Mary, deed one acre of ground to the Woodson County Commissioners for a public burying ground, December 24, 1869. (Grantors both signed with an X).

Other stones showed these names: William, son of T.H. and B. Childs, 1870. Belle, wife of W.E. Morian, June 17, 1879 age 27 years. Children of Milton and Rebecca Hanna, Wilbur died as an infant December 15, 1871, Harriet died September 22, 1872 at the age of 10 years. Harriet had attended the Askren School Dist. No. 2, the preceding winter and spring, under the name of Netta.

Amanda, daughter of Nathaniel and Phoebe Chambers, was buried here in February, 1873 at the age of six years and was later removed to the Askren Cemetery.



The broken stones of the vaults. To the left is the stone with the name Wilkins and the date October 18, 1862. The stone with the name Daniel is leaning against the first stone. The center stone has the name Sarah, that goes with the stone on the right with the name Pickering date October 24, 1862. (This picture and the names were compiled by the writer over twenty years ago, before the vaults were completely broken.)

This cemetery grew to a fair size and then as the Sira Cemetery a mile to the north and the Askren Cemetery about six miles to the Southwest were started. Later it ceased to be used as a burying place and soon became neglected.

Years later some of the local pranksters, whenever they thought that someone would visit the cemetery or get some school children they would throw some old animal bones in the vaults that extended about a foot above the ground.

TORONTO TATTLER - April 12, 1919 —

Although World War I had ended and the Armistice had been signed some of the Alumni of the Toronto High School were still overseas in the Armed Forces. We will copy a couple of them in this issue. The first one is from Homer Hedges.

Herchboch, Germany, March 18, 1919:

Dear Father, Mother, and Sis: I will now try and write you a few lines to let you know how I am getting along. I am enjoying the best of health and getting along fine. Our division is still holding the lines in Germany. I guess they will hold us here until peace is signed and it is hard to tell how much longer as there is no sign of getting back at present.

I can see by the paper a good many of the Toronto boys are back, but I guess there were not many that spent much time overseas. I have been reading some of the letters in the Toronto paper and some of them seem to think they saw a whole lot in the month or two over here. But the ones that went through it all I guess will be the last to return.

I have received a number of the Toronto paper, but have not received them regular. Our mail has been coming more regular than usual in Germany. It takes about twenty days for a letter to reach here from the states.

Hope to see you all this summer.

Homer Hedges, Co. B., 28th Inf. 1st Division

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A letter from E.G. Pederson, with the 13th U.S. Marines.

I have made another move, another ride in a box car. We left St. Sulpice the 26th, where to, we did not know until one night about eight. The captain said, "We camp here." I opened the car door and what did I see but a large river and tall buildings. I turned to my buddy and said, "Partner, it kinder looks like New York City." It was Nantes, one of those French cities with so many wonderful sights, and the river was the Loire. One of the best sights I have seen for some time was a U.S. ship coming up the river. Some of the boys thought it was a French ship but we soon saw old Glory flying from the mast and we knew it was one of Uncle Sam's boats carrying supplies back to the U.S.

We are stationed five miles from Nantes doing guard duty. I have been guarding prisoners the past week. It is easy but I never liked to chase anybody around with a rifle much. But is is my duty so I must obey.

General Pershing visited camp this morning and as guard, I had the privilege of seeing one of America's great men.

I sure am having a great time learning French. I have a little French girl teaching me French and I teach her our language. She has learned quite a bit, but my! I'll be darned if I can make out anything. I think that French is harder than Latin, although some of the words are the same. We are thirty eight miles from St. Nacaire where I heard Antone is. I am going to make a liberty and take a boat so I can look him up. Well news is scarce and I have some other letters to write.

As Ever Pete.

Co. K, 13th Regt. 3rd Battalion, U.S. Marines.

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The Toronto High School Honor Roll for World War I.

In the Navy: David W. Steele, Fred Sample, Fred McHaley, A.V. Kerr, John J. Curtis, J.K. Gustin, Emmett D. Taylor.

In the Marines: E.G. Pederson, Edwin Brilley.

Air Service: James L. Wilhite

Other Branches of Service: F.L. Owens, J.L. Byington, John Martin, Jacob L. Holderman, Homer Hedges, E.G. Gustin, A.L. Mathews, LeRoy Brogard, Edgar Allen Vaughn, Chas. H. Barker, Leo L. Cannon, Thomas C. Kelley, Roy McMahon, Walter Kaltenbach, F.A. Popkess. W.A. Elvin died of pneumonia at Ft. Riley, 1918.

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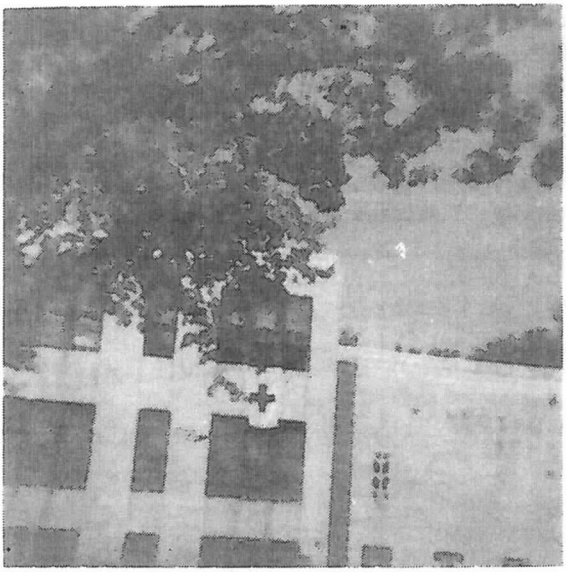
NEOSHO FALLS SCHOOL - Dist. No. 8 —

We do not have a complete list of the Superintendents of the Neosho Falls schools but will give some of them. Starting 1901, E.H. Harding, W.J. Williams, E.E. Kelley, A.L. Cross, F.C. Walters, G.W. Smith, Ralph E. Focht, Mrs. L.E. Diver, C.R. Edwards, James Shore.

Mrs. Louise Roberts was Superintendent starting the fall of 1951, following the flood, and continued for eleven years. Mrs. Roberts taught in the Neosho Falls schools for 24 years.

The high school was discontinued following the 1959-60 term and pupils went to Yates Center.

The school term of 1965-66 was the last term as school District No. 8. While school was held here until 1967, it was under the Yates Center Dist. 366. Mrs. Ann Ireland and Mrs. Louise Roberts were the last teachers in the Neosho Falls School.



The Red Cross flag flying from the third floor window of the Neosho Falls school following the all-time high of the Neosho River, Friday, July 13, 1951.

R. Munn, a field director of the National Red Cross first set up his headquarters in the City Hall at Yates Center and later transferred it to Neosho Falls school.

The school house was still being cleaned up after the flood when water covered the ground floor and part way up on the first floor. The school building had been a refuge for 65 people, 15 dogs for two or three days. Two cows and several chickens had been on the stage of the auditorium which was covered with the flood waters.

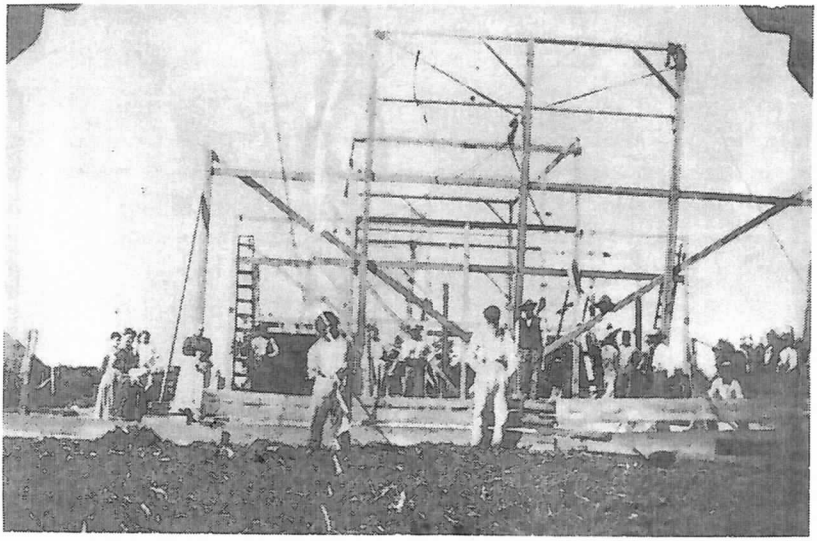
The Red Cross assisted many of the people in the surrounding area in the repair of their homes. Much food and clothing was donated. Around 5,000 meals and lunches were served during the flood period sponsored by the Red Cross. Almost 150 familes registered for Red Cross assistance. Some of these were from the Verdigris valley.

A BARN 'RAISING' —

Back in the horse and buggy days, the raising or building of a farm barn became a community or neigborhood project as friends and neighbors would all gather to help erect a new barn.

The poles, rafters and cross pieces would be nailed or bolted together on the ground and would be hoisted up with a block and tackle and be held in place until another part would be hoisted up and fastened together.

This would call for a head carpenter or someone who had experience along this line to take charge of the 'raising'.



The barn being raised in the above picture was on the farm of Clarence Kinyon. Clarence Kinyon and his father-in-law John Bales, had started the barn and when they had it ready for the "raising" the neighbors were notified and came in to help finish the erecting. The barn was built around 1907 and still standing on the farm nine miles north and 2-1/2 miles west of Yates Center or one and a half north and a half west of Burt.

While the men would come for the barn raising the women folks would also come and at noon and the meal would have been prepared by the women of the vicinity.

A part of the people in the picture are identified. At the left of the picture the second lady is Mary (Mrs. Wilbur) Kinyon holding her daughter Sybil, the elder lady by pole, Mrs. John Bales, the man in front where the picture is torn, is Sam Gordon, the next man in

front, is Mr. Bales. The next man with hat and vest is Clarence Kinyon. The lady to the extreme left that we skipped is probably, Daisy (Mrs. Clarence Kinyon.)

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While the barn raising was a community affair and a friendly get together there were times when a tragedy would happen when something about the "raising" gave trouble.

On May 20, 1900, a group of around 25 farmers and neighbors of A. Watkins gathered at his farm, three miles east and four south from Yates Center, for the purpose of a barn raising. Mr. and Mrs. Watkins had not only invited their friends and neighbors but had planned a gala day with a big feast at noon. But what a different ending for the day.

The work of raising the different parts of the large barn started fairly early in the morning. The workmen had placed two of the larger center "bents" in position and fastened, and were raising the third one with pike poles when the large oak timber 30 feet high and 18 inches thick at the bottom, slipped off the foundation and fell crashing to the ground. When the huge oak beam slipped the workmen scrambled for safety. All succeeded except three. Albert Schnell started to run but slipped and fell across one of the foundation stones and heavy beam fell across his shoulders and chest, killing him instantly. Lut Pingrey was a little farther south and must have been struck by one of the cross beams, hitting the top of his head, crushing his skull. A young man named Lee Thomas, a migrant farm laborer was struck on the shoulder and was severely bruised.

This tragedy happened about 9:00 a.m. Pingrey died about four hours later.

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The "bents" mentioned above were the ends of the barn where the gable goes.

Mostly the barn raising was a gala affair with friends and neighbors coming together for work and a fellowship combined, even though their was always a possibility of an unlooked for mishap that could result in a tragedy.

DURAND —

Around the turn of the century, the railroad coming in through Vernon and LeRoy made quite a bend to the southwest to get to Yates Center. As it went out it made another larger bend back to the southeast to get to Rose.

Coming in from the northeast the railroad made a bend around the bluff like hills along Owl Creek just north of Yates Center. The line coming from the east had to do quite a lot of twisting to get up the hill to Yates Center.

In order to get away from the bends and hills the Colorado, Kansas and Pacific Railway Co., later the Missouri Pacific Railway started a survey for a cut-off of about eight miles from the half section line between the sections 19 and 30-Twp. 24, R. 16, going almost straight south until it hit the old track in section 6-26-16, on the Schaede farm. The north end was where the K X siding was located.

This railroad company had petitioned for the right-of-way and land for a depot, car yards and water facility. This was around 1901. The road was surveyed and the construction work was divided into four different sections. The south part was done by Condon Bros. who had their construction camp where the old rock house was about three miles south of the new cutoff.

The next part of the construction work was given to Henry Ashley, an early and well known man around Yates Center, who with his crew went out from Yates Center each day. The dirt was moved mostly by wheel scrapers pulled by three horses or mules.

The work around the depot area was given to another contractor. This part was around the creek and rather swampy. At times as many as 20 head of horses and mules were used on one plow or grader. A steam engine was brought in but could not make much headway.

The piles for the bridges over Owl Creek were driven by pile drivers operated by horses. A heavy weight would by up on a derrick where it would be tripped and dropped onto the piling. Two teams were used so that whenever one team would pull the weight the other team would be ready to hitch on to it.

One construction outfit had quite a crew of Italians or "Dagoes" working for it. They could not speak English, and a fellow named George Rallis did the interpreting for them and looking after their affairs.

There was a house about three-quarter miles north of Durand occupied by a family named Morrow. The story was told that the house was in direct line of the survey and that the surveyors ran their chain in one window and out another. Morrow put a stop to this by use of a shotgun. The survey was then run to the west of the house.

After the grade was made, the tracks laid, a town began to take shape. The depot was built, two hotels or perhaps one was more of an eating house, several houses were built and a store was established.

Weckerly had been operating the railroad hotel in Yates Center and moved to Durand to operate the hotel there for awhile. August Krueger opened an eating house and an ad appeared in the Yates Center, news of July 10, 1903 that —"NEW STORE at Durand. Ready for business in connection with our lunch room at the cutoff - we have opened a complete general mechandise-highest prices paid for butter and eggs. August Krueger.

In its heyday Durand became quite a busy place with as many as 12 trains coming and going each day. About 75 workmen were in and out each day besides the ones going from Yates Center.

Most of the land where the town and switch yards were built was on land belonging to C.F. Harder. With a local attorney as his lawyer, a fight was waged against the railroad company for more of a settlement, but the railway company won out. Harder then built a large hay barn with the idea of shipping quite a lot of hay from Durand. Farmers around there wanted to ship their hay from there to avoid hauling it farther, but the railroad company would not make a siding to any barn or permit shipping hay from there. Mr. Harder built three or four houses for rent and the Missouri Pacific built two houses for section foreman.

With the little town of Durand only two miles away, some of the business people of Yates Center fearing another town was springing up to close tried to put pressure on the railroad company against any further concessions. A siding was then put in on the old track, about two miles to the northwest for the farmers to load hay on. Later a place was built to ship from Durand.

A road ran west from the Durand schoolhouse, but with the building of the railroad three sets of tracks crossed the road and was dangerous, besides a train being switched at all times. A concession was made with the railway company to abandon this road if they would put in a siding. Farmers put in a set of scales just west of the schoolhouse.

The first hotel at Durand was built around 1902 by a man named Webb, who was a roadmaster for the railroad. It is also believed that another hotel was built or moved there about that time. It was also believed that one of these burned down about 1908 and the other the next year. These were believed to be to the northeast of the last one built.

There have been many operators of these hotels down through the years. We cannot name them all and those we name may not be in order. Some of the operators of the old Weckerly hotel were Mrs. Toothacre, Ray Shartran, Mrs. Stires, Mrs. Dew (Mrs. Elsie Hayden)

Whether this hotel burned was not learned, but for a shrt time between the building of the last hotel a large tent was erected with meals served in it and a few bunks to sleep on.

During the heavy volume of traffic going through here during World War I a new hotel was built. This seems to have been built in 1919. The Joe Steiner Transfer Company dug the basement and hauled much of the lumber in building this hotel. The Van Noy concern that had the hotel and eating house contracts with the MOP railroad built the hotel. This Van Noy branch was known as the interstate. A man named Donaldson was the boss of the building with labor mostly brought in.

The J.C. Schnell Plumbing started work there October 25, 1918 and worked there into 1919. The Steiner Transfer used several teams of horses to dig the large basement and in hauling the lumber to the building site.

The Durand Hotel in 1950

To Be Continued

PATRONS OF WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

Brown's Western Auto
Milton & Virginia Schornick
Kenneth & Barbara Stockebrand
John V. Glades Agency
Street Abstract Co. Inc.
State Exchange Bank
Self Service Grocery
Krueger's Variety & Dry Goods
HiWay Food Basket
Piqua Farmer's Co-op
Gaulding Oil Co.
Donald E. Ward
Morton Equipment Co.
Swope & Son Implement Co.
Campbell Plumbing & Electric
Clyde Hill
Cantrell Pontiac-Buick
Paul C. Laidlaw
Rogers Bros. Garage
Artex Manufacturing Co.
J. C. Schnell
Gambles Hardware & Home Furnishings
Superior Building Supply, Inc.
Glen Shaw
Pringle Ranch, J.W. & J. Richards
Herring Hardware & Supply
Kimbell Ranch-Ed Kimbell
Woody's Cafe
Edwin H. Bideau Associated Agency, Chanute
First National Bank-Toronto
Blackjack Cattle Co. Inc.
Yates Center Elevator
Wilma Mark
Jasper's Shopping Spot
Bill Taylor-Gen. Agent Woodson Co. Farm Bureau
Atkin Clinic
Daly Western Supply
Pyeatte-Jaynes Ins. Agency
Dyer Chevrolet
Linde Barber Shop
House of Fabrics
Milton & Marcella Wrampe
E. E. Light
Atkin Rexall Pharmacy
Campbell Funeral Home
Mr. & Mrs. Glen Baker
Piqua State Bank
Wendall McMurray
Everybody's Grocery
McGinty-Coffman Dept. Store
Al's Jewelry
Edwin G. Reid, St. Louis, Mo.
Rex Butler, Nashville, Tenn.